Amendments to the Specification:

On Page 1, please add a new Section entitled "Parent Case Text" – and new paragraph [0002] as follows:

Parent Case Text

[0002] This application claims benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/455,032, filed March 14, 2003.

In paragraph [0026], please replace the last sentence as follows:

In contrast to previous experiences with other media, cultures grown to saturation in these media ~~retain~~ remain viable for periods of weeks to months of storage in the refrigerator, retaining their titer (typically greater than 10^{10}/ml) and ability to grow subcultures with little or no lag.

In paragraph [0030], please replace the final two lines as follows:

growth to higher density before the level of induction caused by 1% lactose became high enough to kill the cells. Almost all of these surviving cells had also lost plasmid.

In paragraph [0034], please replace the third (3^{rd}) sentence as follows:

The term auto-induction is used to refer to the growth pattern of inducible expression strains in ~~lactose~~ inducer-containing media, where growth is essentially normal in the early stages, with little or no induction, and expression of the target protein is turned on automatically at a later stage of growth, with no intervention.

Please replace the last sentence of paragraph [0039] as follows:

Thus, one would not expect auto-induction to work in T7 expression strains that carry mutations in the *lac* permease ~~(and therefore~~ because such cells cannot take up lactose~~)~~, nor in cells that carry mutations in β-galactosidase that prevent the transgalactosidation reaction which generates the true repressor.

Please replace the first sentence of paragraph [0043] as follows:

In contrast to conventional inductions by addition of either IPTG or lactose, where growth of each culture must be monitored and inducer (IPTG or lactose) added at the proper time, auto-inducing cultures are simply inoculated and grown to saturation.

In Table I, please replace the top column heading line of the table as follows:

Na_2HPO_4 KH_2PO_4 NH_4Cl $(NH_4)_2SO_4$ Na_2SO_4 $MgSO_4$ $FeCl_3$ metl ZY 18aa Glyc Gluc Lact Succ